

LOWER COLUMBIA – EAST FORK LEWIS WINTER STEELHEAD

STOCK STATUS

1992 STATUS

Depressed

2002 STATUS

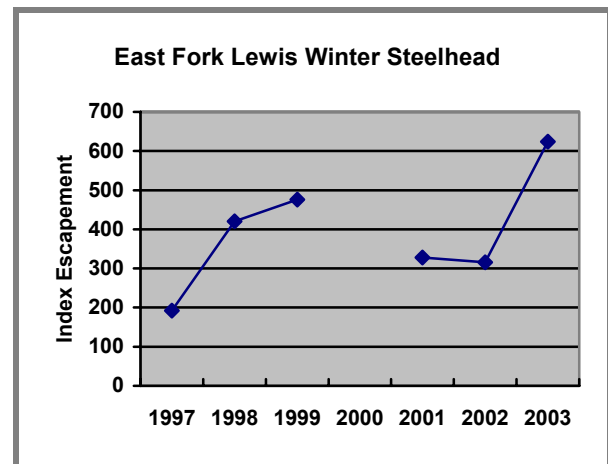
Depressed

STOCK STATUS RATING DATA

USEFULNESS FOR RATING STOCK STATUS:

Fair

YEAR	INDEX ESCAPEMENT
1997	192
1998	420
1999	476
2000	No Data
2001	328
2002	316
2003	624



Data are escapement index estimates based on redd counts in index areas from the mouth of the East Fork Lewis to upper Rock Creek. Prior to flooding in early 1996, additional areas were surveyed but are no longer accessible. The 2001 counts are considered minimum counts because no foot surveys were conducted, only aerial surveys.

Stock status is rated **Depressed** in 2002 because of **chronically low** escapements. A new escapement index was instituted in 1997 and its relationship to the previous escapement index is currently unknown. The escapement index that was used through 1995 showed a trend of chronically low escapements in the East Fork Lewis, and there are no indications that the status of the stock has improved in recent years.

STOCK DEFINITION

East Fork Lewis River winter steelhead were identified as a stock based on their distinct spawning distribution and later run timing.

SPAWNING DISTRIBUTION: Spawning takes place in the East Fork Lewis River and its tributaries.

SPAWNING TIMING: Spawning generally occurs from early March to early June.

GENETIC ANALYSIS: Genetic sampling was conducted in 1996, however comparisons of allele frequencies between this stock and other lower Columbia steelhead stocks for determining stock distinctiveness are not very informative (Myers et al. 2002).

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STOCK ORIGIN

This is a **native** stock with **wild** production.